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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
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Draft resolution entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development"

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 72/79, on the consideration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the General Assembly emphasized the significance of the high-level segment of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50), to be held on 20 and 21 June 2018 during the sixty-first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which will be open to all States Members of the United Nations.

2. In that same resolution, the Assembly requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit a draft resolution on the outcomes of UNISPACE+50 for the consideration of the General Assembly, in plenary meeting, at its seventy-third session.

3. In accordance with the Assembly's request, the agreed text of the draft resolution entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development", as finalized during the intersessional consultations held from 7 to 11 May 2018 that were open to all Member States, is hereby submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for its endorsement on the first day of the UNISPACE+50 high-level segment, on 20 June 2018 (see annex). The Committee is expected to recommend that the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution at its seventy-third session.

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Annex

Draft resolution entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development"

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2453 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 37/90 of 10 December 1982, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004 and 72/79 of 7 December 2017,

Recognizing that the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) offers a unique opportunity for Member States to reflect on more than 50 years of achievement in space exploration and use and to chart the future contribution of the Committee to the global governance of outer space activities,[1] at a time when more participants, representing both governmental agencies and non-governmental entities, including industry and the private sector, are increasingly becoming involved in ventures to explore and use space and carry out space activities,

Convinced that UNISPACE+50 also offers a unique opportunity for Member States to look towards the future by strengthening the roles and activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat as unique platforms for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in the fulfilment of their respective mandates,

Emphasizing that, for the past 50 years, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, have provided unique platforms to promote international cooperation in space activities at all levels, to foster dialogue among spacefaring and emerging space nations, to increase capacity-building efforts for developing countries and to continue to shape the global governance of outer space activities to benefit people and the planet,

Convinced that the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and of the commitments by States parties to the Paris Agreement[3] requires stronger coordination and support at all international levels, including through improved access to space-based data, applications and space infrastructure,

Noting with satisfaction the activities carried out under and the valuable support provided to Member States by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and acknowledging the valuable contributions of its network of regional support offices, while recognizing the need to enhance the Platform in order to ensure that it can fully deliver solutions and services under its established mandate and respond appropriately to the needs of developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of capacity-building, education and training provided by the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, in particular for developing countries, and the need to enhance them to improve their overall capacity,

Recognizing also the important role of initiatives undertaken at the national, regional, interregional and broader international levels, including initiatives under the auspices of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for

[1] See A/AC.105/1137.

[2] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Outer Space Affairs, in fostering international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space for the continuous growth and diversification of space activities,

Recognizing further that space science and technology and their applications have and will continue to have a significant role in achieving the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets contained therein, which are of critical importance for humankind and the planet,

Emphasizing the need to build stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space at all levels and among the participants representing the space community, in order to enhance the contribution of space activities for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets contained therein,

Reiterating that all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, are participants in, contributors to and beneficiaries of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space,

Stressing the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and, in particular, the need to address the significant challenge posed by space debris, and convinced of the need to strengthen, through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, international cooperation to achieve those goals and contribute to realizing a shared vision for the future in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind,

Convinced that ensuring that outer space remains an operationally stable and safe environment suitable for use by current and future generations would be consistent with the long-standing principles contained in the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[4]

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Outer Space Treaty,

Recognizing that all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Mindful of the need to promote access to the scientific, technological, economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits of space activities through international cooperation, and reaffirming that outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States without any discrimination of any kind, on the basis of equality and in accordance with international law,

Reaffirming, in that regard, General Assembly resolution 51/122 of 13 December 1996, entitled "Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries", and the need to promote the fullest implementation thereof,

Mindful of the importance of increasing knowledge of outer space, including through enhanced access to astronomy and space science data for the benefit of humankind,

Convinced of the need for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees to continue to address issues arising from commercial activities in outer space and consider how these activities might support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

Acknowledging that significant changes have occurred in the structure and content of space activities, as reflected in the emergence of new technologies and the increasing number of participants in such activities and, in this regard, recognizing the benefit of strengthening the global governance of outer space activities,

Reiterating, in that regard, the role of the Outer Space Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities, reiterating also that the Treaty manifests the fundamental principles of international space law, and convinced that the Treaty will continue to provide an indispensable framework for the conduct of outer space activities,

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in preparation for UNISPACE+50, has analysed the impact of the three UNISPACE conferences, held in 1968, 1982 and 1999, as well as the review undertaken in 2004, and has assessed its past, present and future role, as well as those of its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and noting with satisfaction also that that assessment provided the basis for the selection of the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50,[5]

Noting with appreciation the outstanding work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to develop the seven thematic priorities and the objectives, mechanisms and background documents[6] related to UNISPACE+50, which provide a perspective for the preparation of a "Space2030" agenda, as well as the work carried out within the framework of the four identified pillars, namely space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy,

Emphasizing that the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50 represent a comprehensive approach to addressing key areas that together determine core objectives for the future work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the areas of global partnership in space exploration and innovation, current and future perspectives of the legal regime of outer space and global governance, enhanced information exchange on space objects and events, international framework for space weather services, strengthened space cooperation for global health, international cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies and capacity-building for the twenty-first century,

Welcoming the UNISPACE+50 high-level segment, held in Vienna on 20 and 21 June 2018 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which marked a significant step towards charting the future contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the global governance of outer space activities, including a "Space2030" agenda and implementation plan as part of the ongoing development of a comprehensive strategy, based on the UNISPACE+50 preparatory process, for strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the global agendas addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind,

1. *Notes with appreciation* that the preparatory process and the high-level segment of UNISPACE+50 resulted in documents aimed at articulating a comprehensive, inclusive and strategically oriented vision on strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, in which space is seen as a major driver of and contributor to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of all countries;

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[5] See A/AC.105/1137.

[6] Related documents include: A/AC.105/1129, A/AC.105/1131, A/AC.105/1160, A/AC.105/1161, A/AC.105/1162, A/AC.105/1163, A/AC.105/1164, A/AC.105/1165, A/AC.105/1166, A/AC.105/1168, A/AC.105/1169, A/AC.105/1170, A/AC.105/1171, A/AC.105/1172, A/AC.105/1173, A/AC.105/1174, A/AC.105/1175, A/AC.105/1180 and A/AC.105/1181.

2. *Invites* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to develop, based on the results of the UNISPACE+50 process, a "Space2030" agenda and implementation plan and to provide the General Assembly with the outcome of its work for consideration by the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

3. *Acknowledges* the importance of global partnership and strengthened cooperation among Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities in fulfilling the "Space2030" agenda and its implementation plan;

4. *Encourages* all Member States to continue to promote and actively contribute to strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space and the global governance of outer space activities, addressing challenges to humanity and sustainable development, ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and facilitating the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] taking into account the particular needs of developing countries;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to actively conduct bilateral, multilateral, regional and broader international space cooperation in various forms, including capacity-building, information- and infrastructure-sharing and the development of joint projects and, when appropriate, to integrate space cooperation with economic and development cooperation, in order to promote increased participation in space activities for emerging spacefaring nations and to assist countries in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to promote international cooperation and take further coordinated action to ensure that space science and technology and their applications serve the goals of sustainable development and the betterment of humankind;

7. *Reaffirms* the unique role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for the global governance of outer space activities, for developing international space law, for fostering dialogue among spacefaring and emerging space nations and for promoting the increased involvement of all countries in space activities, including through capacity-building initiatives;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider strengthening its role and activities, and those of its subcommittees, as supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, with a view to aligning them with the evolving needs identified by the Committee, taking into account, in particular, the "Space2030" agenda and its implementation plan, once agreed;

9. *Expresses its conviction* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs should continue to coordinate efforts to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space as a means of promoting the universality thereof;

10. *Encourages* States Members of the United Nations that have not done so to consider becoming members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

11. *Encourages* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue to fulfil their respective mandates and to cooperate and coordinate with other relevant entities within the United Nations system, and invites the Committee to explore ways to optimize cooperation and coordination, as appropriate, with other international organizations on space-related activities;

12. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen the coordination and interrelationship between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in addressing their respective agenda items in a comprehensive, cross-cutting manner, combining scientific, technical, legal

and policy dimensions, so as to, inter alia, foster the use of space as a driver of global sustainable development towards 2030 and beyond;

13. *Urges* the Secretary-General to consider the sufficiency of resources provided to the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its role as secretariat to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees and to ensure that the Office can fully and effectively implement its mandate, including capacity-building activities for Member States in the field of space science and technology and their applications, as well as in space law and policy, taking into account the development of a "Space2030" agenda;

14. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide voluntary extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.